

February 21, 2013
Testimony in Support of Afterschool Learning Programs

The (W.A.V.E.) West Shore Achieves Visionary Education After-School program is a quality afterschool learning program that serves over 80 Milford children each year and their families. The program is a partnership between Bridges, a community-based, non-profit behavioral health services organization and the West Shore Middle School.

Under the supervision of W.A.V.E. staff, children are able to spend time working on their homework, as well as participate in enriching, hands-on activities that focus on tobacco prevention, healthy cooking and nutrition, physical fitness and making good choices.

These activities engage students in learning by making lessons come alive in a socially interactive environment. Staff also research and invite qualified community members to visit the program and discuss and inform the students of college and career options. The program is run by certified teachers and staff from the Milford School district who are invested in providing for the social, emotional and physical needs of the children.

In addition to state funds, W.A.V.E. program administrators leverage funds provided by the Milford Public School District, along with support from the community, to provide high quality, supervised programming for these students who are at a critical stage in their development. Without this programming, many young people in this age-group are left to their own devices for the hours after school, when they are most vulnerable to risky and unhealthy experiences.

Please ensure our children continue to have safe and constructive after school activities, made possible by these strong partnerships, and funded through State of Connecticut After -School funding.

Thank you for supporting quality afterschool learning program opportunities for all children.

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